

subjected to high pressure loading at the level used for systems utilizing CO<sub>2</sub> as a heat exchange agent.

16. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of making said sawcut comprises cutting the sawcut with a saw blade having a predetermined diameter and width.

17. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the sawcut is substantially linear and has a first length  $a_1$  and a first width  $b_1$ .

AI 18. (New) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the slot punch has a larger length  $a_2$  and a larger width  $b_2$  and the ratio of sawcut length  $a_1$  to slot punch length  $a_2$  is between approximately 0.2 and approximately 0.95, and/or the ratio of sawcut width  $b_1$  to slot punch width  $b_2$  is between approximately 0.3 and approximately 0.95.

19. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the header tube has a wall having a comparatively thick wall thickness suitable for use in a heat exchanger subjected to high pressure loading at the level used for systems utilizing CO<sub>2</sub> as a heat exchange agent.

20. (New) A method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the step of making said sawcut comprises cutting the sawcut with a saw blade having a predetermined diameter and width.